

**'60 MINUTES' FALSIFIED  
HAMAS LEADER'S  
COMMENTS**

Muslim leaders in America are outraged over an alleged fabricated quote—attributed to a Palestinian who recruits suicide bombers—in a documentary aired on Sunday August 19 on CBS's *60 Minutes*.

The documentary, presented by reporter Bob Simon, examined the militant Islamic organisation Hamas which has claimed responsibility for dozens of suicide bombings against Israel.

Muslim leaders charge that the report presented false stereotypes of Muslims and defamed their religion.

In the documentary, a man identified as Mohammed Abu Wardeh was filmed speaking in Arabic to Simon, with a simultaneous translation dubbed over his remarks.

At one point the translator quotes Abu Wardeh, saying: "God would compensate the martyr for sacrificing his life for his land. If you become a martyr, God will give you 70 virgins, 70 wives and everlasting happiness."

According to Mehdi Brey, a spokesman for the Washington, DC, office of the Muslim Public Affairs Council, native Arabic speakers listened carefully to the tape and could find nothing even remotely



resembling that translation. Instead, they say, Abu Wardeh said: "As long as I love the land [of Palestine] and as long as it is under occupation, I have no hesitation in doing what I am doing."

Brey said his organisation has asked the show to explain how completely different words were attributed to the person interviewed, but CBS has not responded.

Officials at *60 Minutes* could not explain to Knight Ridder how the discrepancies in the translation occurred, but said they were investigating.

Dr Maher Hathout, a Muslim scholar

with the Islamic Center of Southern California, said he discovered the error and was alarmed at how different the translation was from Abu Wardeh's statements.

"The worst-case scenario is that there is a deliberate spinning of the news. It is very fashionable now to present Muslims as particularly susceptible to being crazy or blowing themselves up."

He said Islam's teachings have nothing to do with myths about virgins and martyrdom.

"There is nothing in the Koran or in Islamic teachings about 70 virgins or sex in paradise. This is ridiculous, and any true Muslim knows that," said Hathout.

(Source: *Knight Ridder Newspapers, Washington, DC, August 23, 2001, www.krwashington.com*)

**PENTAGON'S MISSILE TEST  
RIGGED WITH ON-BOARD GPS**

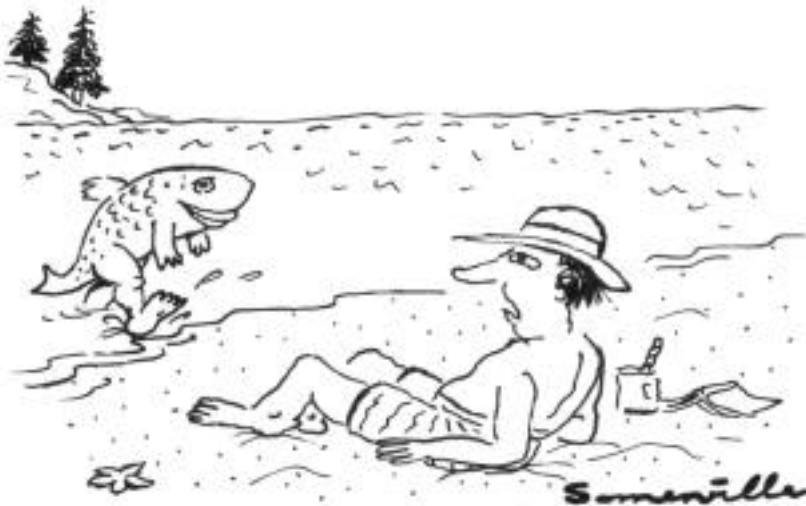
Dr Jeff Patterson, the UW physician who has spent a great deal of his life trying to educate us all about the perils of nuclear weapons, is more than worried, like a lot of other people, that the Bush administration will stop at nothing to get the proposed missile defence shield system underway during its term in office.

Evidence of this is in an article by nationally syndicated columnist Joe Conason, which the doctor sent along to the online magazine, "Salon". It contends that the Pentagon rigged last month's missile defence test.

"Precisely according to plan, the target was instantly vaporized on impact and, along with it, or so the Pentagon's uniformed salesmen hoped, the perennial concern that missile defense won't work," Conason wrote.

"With the cooperation of major news organizations and conservative pundits, that test provided an enormous propaganda boost to the Bush proposal, which conveniently enough had been brought up to Capitol Hill by Defense Department officials just two days earlier.

"There was only one thing that all the happy salesmen forgot to mention about their latest test drive," he continued. "The rocket fired from Vandenberg was carrying a GPS [global positioning system] beacon that guided the kill vehicle toward it. In other words, it would be fair to say that



*Whoa...back up a sec.  
We haven't wiped ourselves out yet!*

the \$100 million test was rigged!"

Conason's article complained that the mainstream media didn't pick up on this, even though the Pentagon confirmed the role of the GPS device to a reporter for *Defense Week* magazine several days after the test.

"They either buried the news or ignored it," the columnist said, because they "had so obediently celebrated the technological breakthrough two weeks earlier".

But this is just the tip of what's going on in an effort to sell the defence system, Conason insisted.

"The Pentagon and the Bush White House mean to stifle any dissent about the capabilities of their favorite toy," he added. "They have repeatedly sought to reclassify documents that show that the system doesn't function as advertised. And within the past few weeks they have blatantly attempted to intimidate Theodore Postol, a professor at MIT who is currently the country's leading critic of missile defense."

(Source: by Dave Zweifel, August 21, 2001, posted at [www.rense.com](http://www.rense.com))

## LIVING BRAIN CELLS LINKED IN ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT

Scientists for the first time have linked multiple brain cells with silicon chips to create a part-mechanical, part-living electronic circuit.

To construct the partially living electronic circuit, scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Biochemistry in Germany managed to affix multiple snail neurons onto tiny transistor chips, and demonstrated that the cells communicated with each other and with the chips.

The advance is an important step towards a goal that is still more science fiction than science: to develop artificial retinas and prosthetic limbs that are extensions of the human nervous system. The idea is to combine the mechanical abilities of electronic circuits with the extraordinary complexity and intelligence of the human brain.

Such combinations of biology and technology may not only one day help the blind to see and the paralysed to move objects with their thoughts, but also help to build computers that are as inventive and adaptable as our own nervous systems and a generation of robots that might truly deserve to be called intelligent.

(Source: Washington Post, August 28, 2001)

## LAB ANIMALS DRIVEN SO MAD THAT TESTS ARE INVALID

The multibillion-dollar industry called "animal research" has reached a new peak of madness.

US scientists say they have found evidence that the sheer boredom of life as a captive lab animal may be enough to incur brain damage or insanity and thus render many experiments invalid.

Using animals to test effects of potentially dangerous drugs and chemicals as a measure of human health is insane nonsense in the first place.

Testing on animals is for the legal protection of the manufacturers only, and represents little or no scientific foundation. That is why people die every day from the effects of so-called safe drugs and chemicals.

Piles of data exist showing that animal physiology differs widely between species, let alone among humans in terms of response to drugs, vitamins, chemicals or psychology, so why the concern over whether results are flawed because of insanity?

(Source: The Guardian, London, August 28, 2001, [www.newsunlimited.co.uk](http://www.newsunlimited.co.uk))

## Pfizer Accused of Killing Kids with Untested Drugs

Pfizer Inc. was accused in a lawsuit this Wednesday of causing brain damage and even death to Nigerian children when it conducted "secret testing" of a new

meningitis drug in 1996. The lawsuit, filed in the US District Court in Manhattan, seeks unspecified damages on behalf of 30 children who participated in the drug trial in Kano, northern Nigeria.

The children were among 200 youngsters who were part of the testing of Trovan, an unproven drug administered in a form never before tested on humans, the lawsuit says. The families of seven of 11 children who died after participating in the test were among plaintiffs listed in the lawsuit.

According to the lawsuit, the tests were conducted during an epidemic of bacterial meningitis in Nigeria that left children desperate for medical care.

"Rather than provide the children with a safe, effective and proven therapy for bacterial meningitis, Pfizer chose to select children to participate in a medical experiment of a new, untested and unproven drug without first obtaining their informed consent," the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit asserts that the drug was known to have life-threatening effects, which soon surfaced during the tests in an impoverished city experiencing epidemics of bacterial meningitis, measles and cholera.

It says Pfizer hurried plans to carry out its tests, taking a variety of steps that violated international law, federal regulations and medical ethics.

(Source: Tampa Bay Online, August 29, 2001, <http://ap.tbo.com>)



*Clever...they always stock those things around about adult eye-height.*

## INDIANS URGED TO TUNE IN TO TV AND TURN OFF SEX

India hopes to glue people to their television sets at bedtime so that they stop having sex and help keep a rein on the one-billion-plus population, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

As part of its family planning policy, the government has decided to make TV sets cheaper for India's entertainment-starved masses, Health Minister C. P. Thakur said.

"Entertainment is an important component of the population policy," the *Times of India* quoted the Minister as telling lawmakers in Parliament. "We want people to watch television."

Deputies said they were worried that India's population, which crossed the billion mark in May, would soon overtake the world's most populous nation, China.

(Source: Reuters, August 30, 2001, at [www.iol.co.za/html/frame\\_news.php](http://www.iol.co.za/html/frame_news.php))

## INCENSE BURNING RELEASES CARCINOGENS

Researchers in Taiwan found that the smoke produced by burning incense is laden with cancer-causing chemicals.

Levels of one chemical believed to cause lung cancer were 40 times higher in a badly ventilated temple in Taiwan than in houses where people smoke tobacco.

Incense burning also creates more pollution than road traffic at a local intersection.

Ta Chang Lin, of the National Cheng

Kung University in Tainan, told *New Scientist* magazine: "We truly hope that incense burning brings only spiritual comfort, without any physical discomfort."

(Source: BBC News, August 2, 2001, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>)

## COSMIC RAYS MAY TRIGGER OZONE LAYER DEPLETION

High-energy radiation from deep space may be burning a hole in our ozone layer. A new study, published in *Physical Review Letters* (August 13, 2001), finds a correlation between so-called cosmic rays and ozone depletion and shows with experiments how cosmic rays could destroy ozone. The results may help atmospheric scientists improve their models of ozone depletion.

For 20 years, scientists have recognised that active chlorine molecules from man-made chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) destroy ozone. Conventional wisdom holds that ultraviolet light from the Sun releases the active chlorine from the CFCs. That theory has a problem, however. During the polar springtime, when ozone depletion is greatest, giant clouds of ice block the Sun's ultraviolet light.

In recent years, researchers have theorised that these clouds could house CFCs and that some process deep inside them breaks CFCs down into active chlorine. But how this process could happen without ultraviolet light has remained a mystery.

Now Leon Sanche and Qing-Bin Lu of the University of Sherbrooke in Canada think they know what's causing the release of active chlorine. The two believe that cosmic rays from deep space are penetrating the clouds and knocking loose electrons. The electrons interact with the CFCs to liberate the active chlorine molecules.

Those molecules, according to Sanche and Lu, can reside inside an icy polar cloud until springtime—when it dissolves and releases them into the atmosphere.

(Sources: Scientific American, [www.sciam.com/news/080801/2.html](http://www.sciam.com/news/080801/2.html); New Scientist, [www.newscientist.com](http://www.newscientist.com))

## EUROPE'S NEW NOTES HAVE SECRET SECURITY FEATURES

The European Central Bank (ECB) says that Europe's central currency, the euro, will be protected from counterfeiters by a string of invisible security measures.

A spokesman says that the new notes will be protected by as many as 90 anti-forgery features, many of which remain a closely guarded secret. The notes are to be introduced in 12 European countries on January 1, 2002.

The introduction of the euro will be the biggest currency transfer in history, and the ECB is keen to prevent counterfeiters taking advantage of public unfamiliarity. "There are no notes in existence that include this many security features," says an ECB spokesman.

The currency has been designed to be easily recognisable and will have familiar anti-counterfeiting characteristics such as a watermark, metal strip, hologram and iridescent markings. This should stop the public being fooled by poor quality fakes.

The notes will also include some hidden anti-counterfeiting measures that are found on existing bank notes, such as micro-printing that can only be seen under a microscope and markings that only show up in fluorescent light.

But the currency will also come with secret features—some of which are only recognisable using special equipment, and some that can be automatically recognised by new bank sorting equipment.

"Professional tellers will be able to check using special equipment, and central banks will have sophisticated sorting machines that can detect special properties," says another Central Bank representative.

(Source: New Scientist, August 31, 2001)



*It's bad enough he's kicked us out, but the aliens as well?*

## COMPUTERS READ BRAINWAVES IN TELEPATHIC NEWS SERVICE

Communication via thought waves and personalised radio stations will challenge traditional news media, according to an American journalism academic.

Former *New York Times* journalist and University of Maryland Dean of Journalism Thomas Kunkel told a conference in Brisbane that technology was not merely marching ahead, it was sprinting.

"Forget the technology of the 21st century; just in the next five or 10 years we will be confronted with Buck Rogers kind of developments," Mr Kunkel said.

"In the past two weeks I have had conversations with serious people about how close we are to being able to communicate via thought. Not telekinesis hocus-pocus, but through the ability of computers to read individual brainwave fingerprints. Imagine the commercial, not to mention the moral and ethical, implications of that."

He said US researchers had also developed the ability to transmit super-micro radiofrequencies.

"This could open up the prospect of personalised broadcasting of information: your own channel, if you will, directed at you only, that operates on your behalf, that operates 24 hours a day," Mr Kunkel said.

He said the changes, coupled with a greater emphasis on profits and corporate rationalisation, meant journalists and news organisations needed to consider more carefully the fundamentals of their profession—such as news values and ethics.

(Source: by Paul Osborne, AAP, Herald and Weekly Times, July 16, 2001)

## SILICON-SPEAK AT LIGHT SPEED

In a world first for Australian researchers, Professor Martin Green, who headed a team from the University of New South Wales, has announced that they have found a way for silicon microchips to communicate by light, thus paving the way for even faster and more powerful computers.

The new silicon devices eliminate the need for the circuitry and wiring currently used for communicating between chips.

This means microchips can send signals to each other directly, thus increasing processing speed; and because the light is produced by a small amount of energy, the circuit can be opened up for new operations.

(Source: The Weekend Australian, August 25–26, 2001, [www.theaustralian.com.au](http://www.theaustralian.com.au))

## GLOBAL TAXATION SYSTEM ON THE AGENDA

"It will never happen," was the almost universal response to our first reports on global taxation nearly a decade ago. The folks at the United Nations, however, believe that it will happen—and soon. In fact, another World Conference is being planned for March 18–22, 2002, in Monterrey, Mexico, to consider the recommendations of a special High Level Panel on Financing for Development, that has been working since the Millennium Summit last year. The preliminary draft report of the panel is now public, and—surprise, surprise—global taxation is among the recommendations.

Their report is much more comprehensive than just global taxation; it proposes UN control over all economic activity. The entire report is available at [www.un.org/esa/ffd/](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/).

At the time, many people dismissed this Millennium Declaration as just more hot air expelled by ego-bloated bureaucrats. In reality, since it was adopted by the heads of state from more than 150 nations, it is *carte blanche* approval for the United Nations to do whatever it takes to achieve global governance.

The report contains 12 major recommendations, ranging from poor countries getting their economic house in order to a global taxing organisation. These include:

- assuring that developed countries contribute 0.7 per cent of GDP to development aid for developing countries into a "common pool" for distribution by the UN;
- creating a global Economic Security Council, as proposed by the Commission on Global Governance;
- creating an International Tax Organization;
- establishing an "adequate international tax source", namely, the Tobin Tax on currency exchange and a global tax on carbon (the use of fossil fuels).

These four recommendations are only the skeleton of global economic control. Other recommendations also call for "closer coordination" of such institutions as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Development Program, and "partners" from business, civil society and other intergovernmental organisations.

### Economic Security Council

The Commission on Global Governance (CGG) report, "Our Global Neighborhood", devotes more than 40 of its 410 pages (pp. 157–196f) to a detailed discussion of the new Economic Security Council (ESC). It recommends 23 members, selected on a rotating basis, none with veto power and no permanent members, and prescribes the "consensus" process for decisions rather than voting. Under the auspices of this new UN creation would be incorporated all agencies and organisations that have any influence over the international economy. The CGG recommendation goes into considerable detail about incorporating enforcement of environmental treaties into the responsibilities of the new ESC and the World Trade Organization. All the financial exchange mechanisms would fall under the authority of this new entity, a prerequisite to developing a mechanism for collecting global taxes from whatever source.

### International Tax Organization

This proposed new UN organisation is quite ambitious. Presenting it in language that suggests there is some virtue in eliminating "tax competition", the High Level Panel explains all the wonderful benefits such an organisation could provide. It could set international taxing policy, for example, to ensure that everyone is getting taxed "fairly", that socialist countries, whose tax rates run to 70 and even 80 per cent, are not at a competitive disadvantage with the United States where the tax rate is substantially lower.

It has visions of such policies as requiring a foreign national, who happens to be working in America, to pay income tax in his country of origin on income earned in America. It also has visions of formulating a global income tax. This recommendation includes "information sharing" among nations, coordinated through the United Nations, in order to track economic activity of every person and every business, everywhere.

This proposed organisation is on the agenda for the March meeting, along with the other recommendations. This is real—it is not fantasy—and it is being promoted by the world's leaders.

(Source: by Henry Lamb, Environmental Conservation Organization, <http://eco.freedom.org/el/20010901/gtax.shtml>)